

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/GB2004/002698

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G21F5/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G21F G21C B01D B08B B66C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 705 (M-1534), 22 December 1993 (1993-12-22) -& JP 05 245781 A (MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND LTD), 24 September 1993 (1993-09-24) abstract; figures 3,4	1,2, 8-11, 13-15, 17,18, 23,24,27
Y		3-7
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 11, 29 November 1996 (1996-11-29) -& JP 08 192923 A (NGK INSULATORS LTD), 30 July 1996 (1996-07-30) abstract; figures 1-5	3-7
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- \*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/11/2004

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International Application No  
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 01, 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) -&amp; JP 10 274697 A (ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND CO LTD), 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13) abstract; figures 1-3,7</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>1-3, 8-16,23, 24,27</p>

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Inventor's Application No  
PCT/GB2004/002698

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 05245781	A	24-09-1993	JP 2796468 B2	10-09-1998
JP 08192923	A	30-07-1996	JP 2750276 B2	13-05-1998
JP 10274697	A	13-10-1998	NONE	